TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FIRST SESSION, 1100.

Saturday, 7th February, 1925.

The Council re-assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at 11-41 of the Clock, with the President in the chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Amount spent on Irrigation Works in Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha Taluks.

81. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*) : What is the sum, if any, annually spent on the maintenance of old irrigation channels and reservoirs in the taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Chief Engineer reports that there are no old irrigation channels and reservoirs in these taluks except the Kavalankuzhi and Tiruvarampu bunds in the Parur taluk maintained by the P. W. D. The maintenance grants annually spent on these are Rs. 50 and Rs. 80 respectively.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): May I know from the Chief Engineer whether there are no irrigation works in the taluks mentioned in the question, other than the tanks mentioned in the answer?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I rise to a point of order. Is Mr. Govinda Menon entitled to put a question to the Chief Engineer?

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

PRESIDENT: I am sorry I was not carefully attending to the question. You may put a question to the Chief Secretary and not to the Chief Engineer.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether there are no other irrigation channels in these taluks?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer reports that these are the only irrigation channels in the taluks.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): Are these the only irrigation works in those taluks maintained by the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, maintained by the P. W. D.

Concessions to War-service Men.

82. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any, and, if so, what action has been taken by them on the representation made by a deputation of field service men that waited upon the Dewan during September, 1922, under the headship of Mr. Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The main prayers of the deputation were (1) that heads of departments might be compelled to give effect to the orders of Government *re.* employment of overseas-returned men and (2) that the order cancelling the land grant concessions to recruits might not be allowed to affect those who joined the military service prior to the date of the cancellation.

Out of a total number of 1,702 demobilised men who applied for employment till the end of Vrischikam, 1100, 890 men appear to have been appointed in the State Service. In view of the large number actually employed in spite of reduction in establishments due to retrenchments and of the lack of the required special qualifications in the case of many of the applicants for employment in certain departments, Heads of Departments cannot be held to have ignored the circulars in regard to preferential treatment of overseas-returned men. As regards the land-grant concessions, they were withdrawn in the case of applications received from and after the 17th September, 1920, on the lines of the Government of India Resolution withdrawing such concessions in the case of applications from and after the 3rd August, 1920. In the above circumstances the memorial was recorded.

Circulars re. War-service Men.

83. MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the various circulars

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